

10m210

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the P.N.E.U., March 22nd, 1920.

Present:- Mrs. Buchan, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Fyfe, Mrs. Glover,
Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Cooper Marsden, Dr. Webb (in the
Chair), and Mrs. Franklin.

The Special Minute of the Meeting of March 8th was read
and approved.

Mrs. Franklin reported that Miss Mason was not able to
help much in the question of the changes in the staff, which
she realised was purely dependant on finance. Miss Jotcham,
book-keeper, was interviewed and explained the balance-sheet.
She said that the balance at the end of last financial year
was £287, whereas this now stood at £59:8:11½. The profit
on the book-trade was £582:16:5; this sum did not quite cover
the present salaries, but was the largest source of income.

It was noted that the Branch Capitation Fees only amount-
ed to £22:19:0.

Miss Jotcham brought a letter from the landlord, raising
the rent of the Office to £300 as against £205. At present
£110 was made by sub-letting and it was thought this could be
increased to £160. Miss Vandam, one of the present tenants,
sent a letter asking for all available room, instead of only
part, and offering £150 for this.

The question of the salaries of the staff was then dis-
cussed, and though it was felt that the amount paid in
salaries could not be increased, the salaries must be put on
a higher basis, by lessening the number of the staff by one
member. The final arrangement of salaries was left to Mrs.
Franklin.

In any case a deficit of about £150 had to be met, and
the decision as to whether this should be done by raising the
subscription or by taking money out of deposit, was left to a
future meeting of the Executive.

Miss Wix was then interviewed and after much discussion
her resignation of her post at the end of this year, was
accepted with very great regret and with gratitude for her
help.

Mrs. Franklin was authorised to engage Miss Cholmondeley as
her successor and also a fully trained office-Secretary.

Mrs. Franklin told the Committee that she was proposing to
Miss Mason that 2 travelling Secretaries should be employed, and
that if possible a member of the House of Education staff should
visit schools and branches in the north, while the London
Organising Secretary did the south. The actual organising and
arranging of these meetings should be done at the London Office.
She hoped that if Miss Mason saw her way to doing this, Miss
Wix might be appointed for the post, as her experience at the
Office would be invaluable.

Mrs. Franklin promised to spend a good deal of time at
the Office this autumn in order to train the office-Secretary,
and later to help Miss Cholmondeley with her new duties.

12p1emc090

UPPM. 6

MEADHURST,

UPPINGHAM,

RUTLAND.

Dec-21.

My dear Mrs. Franklin,
This is first to wish you
a very Happy Christmas and New
year. I hope, you have children near-
which make such a difference - and
I am sure you have. Here is x x x
from my own 3 to you.

I enclose letters from 3 Preparatory
School Headmasters whom I know well.
I asked them, in confidence, what
they thought of future prospects, and
said I was connected with P.N.E.U. I
think their replies are relevant to our
last meeting. Could you please return them

and not show them round? ^{12p20m1290} I only got
permission to show them to you.

My own view is that there is 3 or
4 years of prosperity coming, but after
that a perilous time. But none the
less ideals never spread unless
propagated by faith. I want to make
some more inquiries, but would urge us
to go forward with courage.

You know, that Committee you put me
on, Mr. Holland is an obvious man
rather than me - especially as I don't see
how I can come up for Extra meetings.
So if you take me off and put him on
you will gain in strength, without offending
me!

Anyhow - again best wishes for
Christmas,

yours sincerely,

Ferry Gilman.

25 p1 cm1296
29.11.22.

COPY OF LETTER FROM LOWER EAST STREET BOYS SCHOOL MIDDLESBROUGH

We are approaching the conclusion of our third term's attempt to carry out P.N.E.U. methods and whilst I know you already have some measure of the effect of these methods in Elementary Schools I think further testimony may be of interest.

This is a slum school, two hundred yards from the river and docks, surrounded by the lowest type of brothel "doss" house, drinking bars and farthest removed of any school in Middlesbrough from green fields and lanes.

Most of the children are unshod, illcloed, under-fed and live in over-crowded rooms - very often unfurnished - without conveniences for the ordinary decencies of life. There is an entire lack of discipline - mental, moral, physical - in the homes and surroundings.

In the schools there is much repression and excessive corporal punishment (I often wonder if you realise the tawdry and soulless sham that passes for education in many urban elementary schools) and this school was no exception.

The day I took charge (2nd May, 1921) there was an uproar in the street. A boy had been severely punished and had slipped out of school and roused the neighbourhood. A semi-drunken slut rushed into the school "to twist the-----teacher's ----neck". Daily squabbles with parents about punishments were taken by the Staff as a matter of course.

/Now, teachers....

teachers and scholars are bright and eager in their work. Irregularity and unpunctuality are reduced to a minimum and there is no corporal punishment. The work to the scholar is becoming a much more important thing than the teacher is.

And there you have what is to me one of the most important features of the F.F.E.U. methods - they compel the teacher to study the child - in setting this task and discovering the why of that failure: and with this study "all the other graces follow in their proper places."

BRK

34 pt 2405/90
10th May, 1923.

Dear Mr. Costley-White,

There are one or two considerations that I should like to put before you before you help us as you have so kindly promised to do with making out the constitution of the Council which is to govern the House of Education, P.H.S. and Practising School. I was able to think over the whole subject whilst in the woods in the Pyrenees in April. Somehow ever since Miss Mason's death there was not until then a moment. The Conference was very difficult to arrange and it came just upon the emotion aroused by her leaving us. We had to see that it combined dignity with absolute loyalty, love without sentimentalism, and perhaps with one exception, which you did not hear and to which I will refer later, I believe the acme was reached and that the "In Memoriam" volume will be an offering to her memory such as she would have wished.

Now for the future. I feel anxious and nervous. Miss Mason did me the honour of appointing me one of her executors together with her solicitor and neighbour. The former I have not seen but I believe I am not wronging him if I say he knows little

4

Memorandum

of her work at least for many years past. Mr. Lewis, Miss Kitching tells me, has never read a word of her writing; she never discussed her work with him and in spite of his office as Trustee and member of the Council appointed by her, and though he was in London at the time of the Conference, he did not think it worth while to attend any of the proceedings when he would have learnt something about Miss Mason's principles and work from those who really had studied and knew them at first hand. Therefore one might say that as regards Miss Mason's teaching I must look upon myself as her sole executor and I feel my responsibility as to the future to be great.

The next body under Miss Mason's will to be considered is the Board of Trustees. Two of these who were neighbours and friends of Miss Mason's refused to take office, leaving two of the Executors - Mr. Lewis and me - Miss Williams, for 20 years' Miss Mason's Vice-Principal, and her two devoted followers, Miss Kitching and Miss Parikh. Miss Williams, though younger than Miss Mason retired two years ago, because she felt that she had not Miss Mason's perpetual mental youth and sympathy with youth, and that she was getting too old for her work. It is true she has become very, very old.

14/3/21/90

The Trustees have the power to hand over their duties to the Incorporated Society of the P.N.E.U. and I very much hope they will do this as soon as the mortgage is paid off. The amount of the mortgage is £2,800 and this can all now be paid off except for £350.

The last body to consider is the Council. I feel that in her choice of those to serve on the Council Miss Mason kindly considered me, as she has put on the Council my personal friends and those whom I originally gathered to work with me in the P.N.E.U. In addition to these I think we have wisely added a number of people who for various reasons we feel will in the future be a strength to the movement. At present they do not know much about the work.

Now as to the work of the Council, which I should like to point out, has to manage 3 branches of the work and therefore differs very much from a Council of an ordinary Training College or School. There is the Parents' Union School and the College and Practising School, all part of a big whole, the P.N.E.U.

Of the P.U.S. Miss Mason nominated Miss Kitching as

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Director and I feel profoundly convinced of the wisdom of this choice. If you will read the reviews of books in the Review, of which she is also Editor, since Miss Mason's death and notice the choice of books on the new programme, and read her article which will appear in the June or July Review (I am sorry you did not hear it), you will I am sure feel that Miss Mason's mantle has fallen on her. This one would expect. For over 30 years she has shared almost every thought and ideal with Miss Mason and has seen the growth, not only of Miss Mason's work, but the internal growth of her teaching.

I would also like to emphasise that in my opinion the P.U.S. is the biggest and most important part of the work which we now have to carry on. It is about that that Mr. Household and I will be talking in America, and its fundamental principles which we hope will be taken up gradually all over the world. These will have to be worked out more and more by people who never came in contact with Miss Mason herself or even with her teachers. The work in the elementary schools and secondary and private schools

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which would enable them to grasp all the principles. For this reason she knew that they might be as well carried out by other teachers and she also felt that many of her students happy.

She appointed Miss Parish, an ex-student, after two years training at the House of Education as Principal of the College, and as concerns her relations with the students nobody could be better, but I never have felt that Miss Parish's grasp of Miss Mason's philosophy was equal to that of some of the other ex-students and disciples of Miss Mason. I also feel that Miss Mason chose her as Principal of the College and as one of the members of the Council and it is as these we ought to regard her.

I think those who heard Miss Parish's speech at the Conference would realise that she has neither the physical nor mental vigour which is needed in a propagator. I therefore feel that her powers beyond that of Principal should be subject to the approval of her colleagues on the Council. I think, for instance, that it should be the Council's business to consider applications from parents of children at the Practising School and of Students at the House of

Sept 1930

done by non-Ambleside teachers, who have worked out the principles for themselves, proves how much can be done in this way. Therefore in considering the management of the P.U.S. we must not only remember the work it is doing at the moment, but look into the future and to the training of its followers. So distinct are the two offices of Principal of the College and Director of the P.U.S. that one can foresee a time when the P.U.S. will be worked from elsewhere than Ambleside.

As to the Practising School, this forms not only a practising ground for students, but it is also the place where the P.U.S. time-tables are being worked out and therefore as such seems to me as much dependent ^{on} of the Director of the P.U.S. as of the Principal of the College.

House of Education. I always feel that though Miss Mason loved "her bairns" she never looked to them as "holders of the torch" in the same way as she did to other followers. She recognised that some of the young women who go up are excellent as teachers to young children but that they have not the philosophical kind of mind

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of office which I should have liked to bring forward, because I feel it is a bad thing for young students to imagine they will be up at Ambleside for life, and it is well for the cause that there should be a large number of suitable young women who will have had experience on the staff at Ambleside, and who would be ready to start similar colleges elsewhere or apply for important outside posts. For instance I should have liked to put in a claim for some student for the new public school that is being started, but there was no one with the necessary experience who was free. Then, for the good of the cause I think there should always be a student working for 3 or 6 months at the Office, travelling about and seeing the work from every point of view. How much more valuable Miss Parish herself is because she has done this, and did not go up to be on the staff at Ambleside, from an ordinary post. It would also mean that we had many to choose from if replacing the Organizing Secretary at any time, and when these students went, as ours so often do, to distant parts they would become missionaries in the cause.

If a good many students had the advantage of experience

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Education for admission at reduced fees. Miss Mason always had a few such, and apparently there are some there now. Also I lately sent Miss Parish the enclosed letter which I think explains itself, but I have not yet had an answer and there are I think many points of these kinds which will arise and have to be settled by the Council.

When the College was Miss Mason's own private business, and one heard complaints with regard to the choice of a student for a special piece of work, or the refusal of a student for some other piece of work, one could answer with all loyalty that Miss Mason arranged these things as she thought best, but it would tax our powers too much if we had to do the same for the present Principal.

Miss Parish chose Miss Hardcastle as her understudy (it is not to be called her "Vice-Principal") at Ambleside, and wrote and told me so after having done it. Miss Mason, in her will has given her the power to make this kind of choice, but not as I gather, the power to add to the staff. All those who know Miss Hardcastle agree that it is an excellent thing, but there are questions with regard to tenure

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on the staff at Ambleside, it would give our successors a number to choose from when the moment comes for a new Principal or Vice-Principal.

The outcome of all this is that I hope there will be more hanging together of the work.

My own opinion is that the placing of students should be done by the Organising Secretary in consultation with the Principal of the College, and that the register should be kept at the Office. When Miss Mason managed one part of the work and the Executive another, this could not be, but I think now the time has come when it should be. If you have time to talk to Miss Pennethorne on this subject you would see better what I mean. She comes back from her tours knowing that there is a crying need for a Class here, or that someone is wanted for a school there and her knowledge would assist in placing students to the very best advantage. However, this may be for the future.

There is now another appointment vacant at Ambleside. The Secretary, whom Miss Parish wished at the last Council meeting, to have appointed as Bursar, has resigned, and the House of Education is in communication with applicants, without any consultation as to tenure of office, salary, etc.

24p/Dec 1290

I hope at the next Council meeting there will be sufficient time allowed for a full report from the Principal as to the posts students are going into, and from Miss Pennethorne on the visits she has paid to schools and the openings for classes, etc. and for propaganda work in various districts.

By Miss Mason's will she very wisely allows the Council to make such rules for the College and P.D.S. as it thinks well and I should be very grateful if in forming the constitution you would consider some of the points that I have touched on in this very long letter. In conclusion, may I say that I know you will agree with me that a kind of recrudescence of interest in Miss Mason's work is spreading over the world and that it behoves us to use it well, at the same time safeguarding all that was nearest and dearest to her. I do think we must be careful that we do not become bound up in red tape and that the spirit of her teaching, as well as the letter, becomes diffused through the world, and at the same time that nothing should be set down that would cause the enemy to blaspheme.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Household as Chairman of the Council and hope that between us we may come to wise decisions.

Yours sincerely,

CPA 1942

REPORTS OF SCHOOLS

10 7 14

I believe some day you will have to write reports on all our schools, but the thing I liked best was that the whole neighborhood was improved by the school - that is just as it ought to be, is it not?

Ms. A. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

1902

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF A COUNTRY DELEGATE.

I wish, if I may, to write a few lines to you about that delightful Conference, the teaching of which I suppose we are all assimilating and digesting. To me it appeared the greatest privilege to be allowed to attend it. During two successive years I have listened to the addresses and discussions at most of the meetings, and I can only say I wish every mother and every father also might be wafted by some power of the air, voluntarily or involuntarily, into the midst of the Conference assembly. The loftiness of tone, the broadness of view, the fertility of ideas, and the inspiration of numbers, all tend to draw out what is best in the individual and to prompt in the members renewed courage, patience and love. Surely all this should enable them, on their return home, to deal with truer insight with the needs of the coming generation; and by setting themselves a very high standard of conduct, to give their children such a lead that they triumphantly vindicate the aims and methods of this Society."

27 cont 290

INDIAN

12.4.20 (Recommending a teacher for the Begum of Bhopal)

(there is the) "far greater consideration of great influence on Indian schools. You know I always think we might do immense things for India.

3.4.20 How very interesting about Lady Bose! I have written to her. I think our work is exactly what India wants, only it is not available when children do not speak English.

5.11.12 ...And the Begum '!!!!' We must lay ourselves out immensely there, and I shall write her a very long letter. If we get one principality working on sound lines, -why not all India? We must organise a serious campaign

Notes on visits to Glen Council Schools, July, 1920.

Rodborough Council School. Mr. H. H. Foster.

He is very keen and has done work for 8 terms. Good music, singing. Miss Harrison music mistress. Good infants' department. Too much discussion of the children before the children.

Excellent group work. A leader of the group is chosen because he or she is good at narration.

Poultry and carpentering well done. The former pays under the head girls.

Mr. Foster wants a visit from Miss Pennethorne. He is a very nice man of good education; rather superior to most. A Manager was present, Mrs. Watson, who knew nothing of the system. I tried to tell her but she wanted it in a nutshell which is difficult.

Woodchester C. of E. Mr. J. Ashmore.

Big school. No group system. Good written work, though actual writing bad, less good narration. One of the older girls was writing poetry. Ashmore's own girl narrates well. Ashmore himself is shy and nervous.

In lowest form, teacher was trying to make children narrate who could hardly read and read badly. I suggested this should be altered. Has not adopted group system and finds the classes difficult to keep going specially where the children differ greatly in their standard of reading.

Rodborough, Kingscourt Council Sch. Mr. R. Taylor.

Very keen, rather hard on the children and not as sympathetic as some. Impatient with slow narration and not keen on narration; likes written work better. Own little boy good but nervy. He is critical of the parents of the children and discussed the children and their foibles too much before them.

196mc29a

MOTHERS' UNION.

From MRS. MAUDE,
Central Secretary.

TELEPHONE
3958 VICTORIA.

Central office.

CHURCH HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.

December 10th, 1912

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

I very much regret that any Mothers' Union worker should speak of the P.N.E.U. as a "purely ethical and not a religious society". It must, of course, be due to want of knowledge on her part and I think you may rest assured that from headquarters, at any rate, such a misconception could not arise and we would always do our best to put such a mistake right.

I am sure the President, Lady Chichester, could not feel more than she does the importance of the two Societies working together. So many of our aims are identical, though, I suppose the Mothers' Union may fairly be called purely^a/religious, Society, whereas the P.N.E.U. embraces education more particularly.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

Mrs Maude

210 p 1 em 1290

MOTHERS' UNION.

From **MRS. MAUDE,**
Central Secretary.

Central Office:—

**CHURCH HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.**

**TELEPHONE:
3958 VICTORIA.**

Dec. 11. 1912

My Dear Mr Franklin,

I feel I shall
like to supplement my
'official' letter with a
little private note to
say how much I hope
my brief misunderstanding
as to the value of your
report may be cleared
up. Certainly I would

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to my utmost surprise
and a mis statement - for
I know full well that
religious basis of the
work of the P. N. S. Co. & if
I did not know it from
personal experience, I
should certainly have
known it from
Dore - He is so happy
at Antislavery & so very
deeply in touch with
the principles & aims

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of the Society's work - I feel
it is a great honor that
he has been asked to
return in another capacity
& trust he will live up
to what is expected of
him - He often talks to
me of the religious charac-
ter & wonderful influence
of his work -

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. M. Mendenhall

11/10/22
MILL HILL SCHOOL,
LONDON. N.W. 7.
15th January, 1922.

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

As you suggested, I sent on the invitation of the P.N.E.U. to my father. He has answered directly to me, under the impression, I imagine, that I was responsible for the invitation. He says in his letter: "The dates given fall into the week of our College Annual Examinations, and I can't possibly engage myself to be away then." I am sorry that we have not been able to get him, but I think perhaps we might try again later on some time.

Yours sincerely,

P. L. Jacks.

Headmaster.